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COOPER FAMILY PAPERS
1840-1913

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INTRODUCTION

The Cooper Family Papers, 1840-1913, were a gift from Mrs. E. L. Williams of Eagleville, Tennessee. The collection consists of 958 items, included twenty account books with the majority of the items being receipts and correspondence. The collection is arranged in alphabetical and chronological order, and occupies eleven manuscript boxes. There are no restrictions on this collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Cooper Family Papers, 1838-1913, begin with twenty account books, dating from 1859 to 1909. Three of them belonged to A. A. Cooper, whereas the others presumably belonged to A. A. Cooper or M. T. Cooper. These account volumes included handwritten notes, lists, and numbers concerning business accounts, such as lumber, property, and agriculture. There is also a folder which includes various account documents dating from 1857 to 1908. These documents include account details and business transactions. The collection also holds twelve agreements dating from 1862 to 1892. The majority of these agreements are for land in Bedford County, Tennessee, involving A. A. Cooper and M. T. Cooper.

The collection also contains two bills of sale for slaves dated 1860. The first bill of sale is between Joseph W. Stevens and A. A. Cooper concerning five slaves. The slaves' names and ages are given. The second bill of sale is for a young girl named Lucy. The collection also includes a gender census for schools in District 26, Bedford County, Tennessee, dated 1888. Four certificates of appointment awarded to A.A. Cooper, dating 1865 and 1882, are included. The first certificate names A. A. Cooper as the new Justice of the Peace for the State of Tennessee by Governor James D. Porter. The second appoints A. A. Cooper as School Director for new School District 26. The third certificate admits A. A. Cooper to Olive Branch Lodge. The fourth is a beneficiary certificate that was awarded to A. A. Cooper by the Grand Lodge of the Ancient Order of United Marksmen of Tennessee.

The Cooper Family Papers also include two church records dated 1871. The first record is from The Baptist Church of Christ concerning a good standing membership for Susan A. Chilton. The second record is from Liberty Baptist Church of Christ and it also confirms good standing membership for Elizabeth Garner. The collection also holds various correspondences dating from 1820 to 1910. The majority of these letters concern business matters relative to A. A. Cooper. The collection also includes several court documents dating from 1860 to 1881. They include summonses, magistrates' warrants, and court minutes. The collection also holds sixteen daybooks, dating from 1847 to 1885. Four daybooks belonged to A. A. Cooper, one of which was his savings book from Shelbyville Savings Bank. The majority of these daybooks kept track of appointments, accounts, lists, and included various notes.

The collection also holds three deeds dating from 1865 to 1880. The first deed is between William L. and L. S. Myers and Thomas R. Myers for a steam mill and all its fixtures dated 1865. The second deed is between J. M. Minter and M. T. Cooper for a piece of land in Rutherford County, Tennessee, dated 1869. The third deed is between Elisha McMillen and Bartley Bird for a tract of land in Bedford County, Tennessee, 1880. The collection also holds a diary, dated 1846 to 1872. The diary includes various notations on livestock, business matters, mathematical calculations, accounts, and lists. Starting Saturday, 12th are several diary entries concerning the unknown writer's experience during the Mexican War.

The Cooper Family Papers also contain four folders of estate papers for Bartley Bird, 1843-1887; L. P. Fields, 1865-1870; Halls & Howell, 1860-1867; A. Murphy, 1863-1880; and John W. Stevens, 1859-1877. These estate papers include legal documents concerning property, receipts, and accounts concerning the estates. The collection also includes an inventory of Hall & Norwell taken by A. A. Cooper in 1861. The collection also holds several legal documents dating from 1856 to 1879. These documents include power of attorney papers, a claims list, and settlements. A notice of sale is dated 1887. It was posted by Lucy O. Slaughter announcing the sale of the residence of the late Mrs. M. F. Moore. The collection also includes several organizational documents dating 1865 to 1877. Several receipts for payments to the Olive Branch Lodge, dated 1878-1883, are included. There are also several membership cards belonging to A. A. Cooper from the Olive Branch Lodge, 1878-1880.

The collection also includes a pamphlet dated 1881, entitled "Taxpayers vs. The Funding Board" which issues a bill of complaint. The collection holds the account current for the post office in Bedford County, 1855. There are also several promissory notes, 1841-1889, and three recipes. The recipes are undated and have no titles. They only include the ingredients and directions for cooking them. The next nine folders in the collection contain various receipts, dated 1838-1910. One folder contains the Scott family's receipts which date from 1865 to 1890 and mainly focus on family business transactions. There is another folder of A. A. Cooper's bank receipts from Shelbyville Saving Bank dated 1877-1883.

The Cooper Family Papers also includes the record book of a general store which contain lists and accounts of goods, n.d. W. G. Wood's sales list, dated 1867, details property that was sold by A. A. Cooper, trustee. There are also undated three speeches, authors unidentified. The collection also holds three undated surveys of land boundaries, one of which is the Moore Children's Homestead. The collection also holds A. A. Cooper's voter registration, 1869, and Mahala Meadly's will, 1875.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

A.A. Cooper was from Bedford County, Tennessee. Bedford County marriage records show that an A.A. Cooper married Mary Singleton on Oct. 7, 1862. A death record is also found for A.A. Cooper in Rutherford County in 1934.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Account book, 1859-1860
2. Account book, 1859-1863
3. Account book, 1860-1861
4. Account book -- Cooper, A. A., 1860-1861
5. Account book, 1860-1862
6. Account book, 1861
7. Account book, 1861
8. Account book, 1861-1865
9. Account book -- Cooper, A. A., 1866-1867

Box 2

1. Account book -- Cooper, A. A., 1877
2. Account book, 1880-1909
3. Account book, 1884
4. Account documents -- Various, 1857-1908
5. Agreements -- Various, 1862-1892, n.d.
6. Bill of sale -- Slave, 1860
7. Census -- School in Bedford County, 1888
8. Certificates -- Cooper, A. A., 1876, 1882
9. Church records -- Various, 1871
10. Correspondence -- Various, 1820-1859
11. Correspondence -- Various, 1860-1869
12. Correspondence -- Various, 1870-1879
13. Correspondence -- Various, 1880-1889

Box 3

1. Correspondence -- Various, 1890-1910, n.d.
2. Court documents -- Various, 1860-1881
3. Daybook, 1847
4. Daybook -- Cooper, A. A., 1857
5. Daybook, 1858
6. Daybook, 1858-1873
7. Daybook -- Cooper, A. A., 1859-1860
8. Daybook -- Cooper, A. A., 1859-1867
9. Daybook, 1861-1874
10. Daybook, 1861-1866

11. Daybook -- Cooper, A. A., 1866
12. Daybook, 1875-1879
13. Daybook -- Cooper, A. A. -- Shelbyville Savings Bank, 1877
14. Daybook, 1884-1885

Box 4

1. Daybook, n.d.
2. Daybook, n.d.
3. Daybook, n.d.
4. Daybook, n.d.
5. Deeds, 1865-1880
6. Diary, 1846-1872
7. Ephemera, n.d.
8. Estate papers -- Bird, Bartley, 1843-1887
9. Estate papers -- Fields, L. P., 1865-1870
10. Estate papers -- Halls & Howell,
11. Estate papers -- Murphy, A.

Box 5

1. Estate papers -- Stevens, John W., 1859-1877
2. Inventory -- Hall & Norvall, 1861
3. Legal documents, 1856-1879
4. Notice of sale, 1887
5. Organization -- Receipts -- Cooper, A. A., 1878-1883
6. Organization -- Membership cards -- Cooper, A. A., 1878-1880
7. Pamphlet -- Taxpayers vs. The Funding Board, 1881
8. Post Office Account Current -- Bedford County, 1855
9. Promissory notes, 1841-1849
10. Recipes, n.d.

Box 6

1. Receipts -- Scott family, 1865-1890
2. Receipts -- Shelbyville Savings Bank, 1877-1883
3. Receipts -- Taxes -- Cooper, A. A., 1861-1910
4. Receipts -- Various, 1838-1859
5. Receipts -- Various, 1866
6. Receipts -- Various, 1867-1871

Box 7

1. Receipts -- Various, 1872-1879
2. Receipts -- Various, 1880-1913
3. Receipts -- Various, 1860-1865
4. Receipts -- Various, n.d.
5. Record book -- General Store, n.d.
6. Sale list -- Wood, W. G., 1867
7. Speeches, n.d.
8. Surveys, n.d.
9. Voter registration -- Cooper, A. A., 1869
10. Will -- Meadly, Mahala, 1875

Box 8

1. Account book -- Cooper, A. A., 1860
2. Account book -- Cooper, A. A., 1868
3. Account book -- Cooper, A. A., 1884
4. Account book -- Cooper, A. A., 1867-1869

Box 9

1. Account book -- Cooper, A. A., 1855
2. Account book -- Cooper, A. A., 1859-1877

Box 10

1. Account book -- Cooper, A. A., 1878

Box 11

1. Account book, 1859

